

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 8, 2008 has been received and carefully considered. In response, applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowability of Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 17-19, 22 and 24-26 upon overcoming several rejections under Section 112 and further including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the amendments previously made to this application in applicant's preliminary amendment, the existing claims have been cancelled in favor of new claims 29-44. Applicant respectfully submits that further prosecution will be made easier in view of the cancellation of the old claims and the addition of the new claims. Set forth below is a chart generally describing the new numbers used for each claim. Further, applicants have amended the claims to address the rejections under Section 112 and has provided substitute sheets of drawings. Applicants respectfully submit that these drawing pages do not include new matter. Finally, applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments to this application, the rejections under Section 102 and 103 are moot. Applicants have cancelled these rejected claims and reserved the right to prosecute these cancelled claims in a continuation application. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

- New claim 29 is claim 4 written in independent form;
- New claim 30 is old claim 5;
- New claim 31 is old claim 7 rewritten in independent form;
- New claim 32 is old claim 8;
- New claim 33 is old claim 9;
- New claim 34 is old claim 17 rewritten in independent form;
- New claim 35 is old claim 18;
- New claim 36 is old claim 19 dependent on new claim 34;
- New claim 37 is old claim 16 dependent on new claim 34;
- New claim 38 is old claim 27 dependent on new claim 34;
- New claim 39 is old claim 2 dependent on new claim 29;
- New claim 40 is old claim 3 dependent on new claim 29;
- New claim 41 is old claim 2 dependent on new claim 31;
- New claim 42 is old claim 3 dependent on new claim 31;
- New claim 43 is old claim 12 dependent on new claim 29;
- New claim 44 is old claim 12 dependent on new claim 31.

The above-identified Office Action rejected the claims for improper renumbering under Section 1.126. In view of the confusion resulting in the renumbering of this application, applicants have chosen to cancel Claims 1-28 in favor of new Claims 29-44. Applicants respectfully submit that these new claims are properly numbered wherein this claim objection has been addressed.

Attached hereto are substitute drawing sheets 1-6.

The drawings were objected to for Figure 4 having identifiers 29 and 39 being interchanged. Applicants have reviewed the specification, and the identifiers in Figure 4 properly identify the "pressure gauge 71 to the connection 31, a pressure limiting valve 72 to the connection 29." Consideration of the substitute drawing sheets is respectfully requested.

The above-identified Office Action also objected to the drawings for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim language from old claims 24 and 28 have been removed from the claims of this application. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Again, applicants acknowledge with appreciation the reference to allowable subject matter upon rewriting several claims in independent form and overcoming rejections under Sections 112. With respect to the rejections under Section 112, applicants will discuss those below. With respect to the allowable subject matter, the above identified office action confirmed the allowability of claims 4, 7 and 17 upon rewriting these claims in independent form. Applicants have amended these three claims into independent form and the remaining claims in this application all depend from one of these three independent claims.

Old claim 4 is now claim 29 wherein all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims of old claim 4 are in this new claim. Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 29 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 30, 39, 40 and 43 are dependent from allowable independent claim 29 and, therefore, these dependent claims are also considered to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, consideration and allowance of claims 29, 30, 39, 40 and 43 is respectfully requested.

Old claim 7 has been put in independent form in new claim 31 of this application. Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 31 includes all the limitations of old claim 7 including, the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 31 is in condition for allowance. Claims 32, 33, 41, 42 and 44 are dependent from new independent claim 31 wherein these claims are also considered to be in allowable form. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 31, 32, 33, 41, 42 and 44 is respectfully requested.

Old claim 17 has been amended to new claim 34 wherein new claim 34 includes all limitations of old claim 17 including the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that new claim 34 is in condition for allowance. Claims 35-38 are dependent from independent claim 34 wherein these claims are also deemed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the claims 34-38 is also respectfully requested.

Old claims 1-9, 12, 14-19 and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter in which applicants regard as the invention. In new claims 29-44, applicants have addressed these 112 rejections. In particular, new independent claims 29, 31 and 34 have been written to address the §112 rejections of old claim 1. In this respect, these claims recite a “check valve” and the “in particular” language has been removed from the introduction of these claims. Further, applicants have addressed the plurality issue for the connections previously recited in independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these new independent claims address the §112 rejections identified in old claim 1 wherein these claims are deemed to be in allowable form.

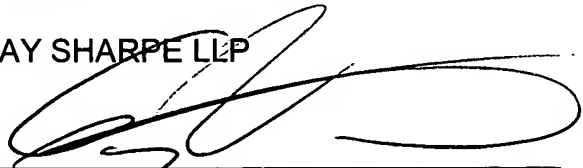
The §112 rejection also identified several antecedent bases problems which also have been addressed by these claim amendments. In this respect, the language “the shield-type support frame” has been amended to “a shield-type support frame.” This language is found in new claim 34. The antecedent basis rejection of claim 27 has been addressed in new claim 38 wherein the wording has been changed to “the hose connections and the connection receptions.” The remaining §112 rejections are moot in that this claim language has been removed from this application.

With respect to the claims under 102 and 103, applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are also moot in view of applicants' amendments wherein the dependent claims have been amended to depend from the allowable subject matter in this application. Again, applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims of this application in one or more continuing applications.

Applicants submit that each issue raised in the above-identified Office Action has been addressed by this amendment. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

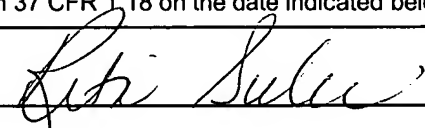
Respectfully submitted,

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April 8, 2008
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